

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A system used in auto-boating, comprising:
 - a boat;
 - a tape substrate supported by the boat, the tape substrate comprising:
 - 5 a pair of lateral edges parallel to one another, each lateral edge having respective first and second ends;
 - a pair of longitudinal guide strips parallel to one another, one of the longitudinal guide strips extending between the respective first ends of the pair of lateral edges and the other longitudinal guide strip extending between the respective second ends of the pair of lateral edges; and
 - 10 a plurality of die attach regions disposed within the area defined by the pair of lateral edges and the pair of longitudinal guide strips;
 - 15 a boat clip having a plurality of windows coupled to the boat such that the tape substrate is sandwiched between the boat and the boat clip; and
 - wherein each longitudinal guide strip comprises a pair of tabs disposed at opposite ends thereof such that each tab extends beyond a respective one of the lateral edges.
- 20 2. The system of Claim 1, wherein the tabs are triangularly shaped.
3. The system of Claim 2, wherein the tabs are oriented at an angle of between approximately thirty degrees and sixty degrees with respect to the respective lateral edge.
- 25 4. The system of Claim 2, wherein the tabs are oriented at an angle of approximately forty-five degrees with respect to the respective lateral edge.
- 30 5. The system of Claim 1, wherein the tabs lie in the same plane as the tape substrate.

6. The system of Claim 1, wherein the tape substrate is formed from polyimide.

5 7. The system of Claim 1, wherein the tabs are formed integral with the longitudinal guide strips.

8. The system of Claim 1, wherein the boat clip is magnetically coupled to the boat.

9. A method for auto-boating, comprising:
supporting a tape substrate on a boat, the tape substrate comprising:
a pair of lateral edges parallel to one another, each lateral edge
having respective first and second ends;
5 a pair of longitudinal guide strips parallel to one another, one of
the longitudinal guide strips extending between the respective first
ends of the pair of lateral edges and the other longitudinal guide strip
extending between the respective second ends of the pair of lateral
edges, each longitudinal guide strip comprising a pair of tabs disposed
at opposite ends thereof such that each tab extends beyond a respective
10 one of the lateral edges; and
coupling a boat clip having a plurality of windows to the boat such that
the boat clip engages the tabs as the boat clip approaches the boat to ensure
that the lateral edges of the tape substrate do not engage edges of respective
15 windows proximate the lateral edges.

10. The method of Claim 9, wherein the tabs are triangularly shaped.

11. The method of Claim 10, wherein the tabs are oriented at an angle of
20 between approximately thirty degrees and sixty degrees with respect to the respective
lateral edge.

12. The method of Claim 10, wherein the tabs are oriented at an angle of
approximately forty-five degrees with respect to the respective lateral edge.
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13. The method of Claim 9, wherein the tabs lie in the same plane as the
tape substrate.

14. The method of Claim 9, wherein the tape substrate is formed from
30 polyimide.

15. The method of Claim 9, wherein the tabs are formed integral with the longitudinal guide strips.

16. The method of Claim 9, wherein coupling the boat clip comprises
5 magnetically coupling the boat clip.

17. A method for auto-boating, comprising:

providing a tape substrate strip, the tape substrate strip comprising a pair of longitudinal guide strips and a die attach region disposed between the longitudinal guide strips;

5 separating the tape substrate strip into a plurality of tape substrates by:
cutting the die attach region perpendicular to the longitudinal
guide strips to create one or more lateral edges; and
cutting each longitudinal guide strip at an angle with respect to
a respective lateral edge to create one or more tabs extending beyond
10 the respective lateral edge.

18. The method of Claim 17, wherein the angle is between approximately
thirty degrees and sixty degrees with respect to the respective lateral edge.

15 19. The method of Claim 17, wherein the angle is approximately forty-five
degrees with respect to the respective lateral edge.

20. The method of Claim 17, wherein the tape substrate strip is formed
from polyimide.